

~~SECRET~~

14 AUG 1995

Joanne Isham

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(S)

Status Report on Inquiry from Chairman Leach
House Banking and Finance Committee

Briefing Request

- Chairman Leach (R-IA) wrote you on 11 July 95 seeking your help in "verifying or laying to rest various allegations of money laundering in Arkansas in the late 1980s." (Copy of letter attached as Tab A.)
- He asked for a briefing from the CIA's Inspector General to address 7 topics ranging from efforts to [redacted] to whether the Agency was aware of certain companies and individuals who allegedly operated in or around Mena, Arkansas.
- The worst of these allegations, faxed to us before the briefing, credited to a CIA source in a magazine called Media Bypass, is that the CIA discovered that Vince Foster was a spy for the Israelis, and used a Cray supercomputer at CIA Headquarters to surreptitiously drain \$2.73 million from Foster's secret Swiss account. The article goes on to speculate that Foster committed suicide because he discovered his account had been drained. (Copy of article attached as Tab B.)
- A similar briefing request was sent to NSA.

Briefing by CIA and NSA

- On 21 July 95, Congressional Affairs and Inspector General representatives from CIA and NSA met with Chairman Leach and his assistant staff director, James McCormick.
- Chairman Leach was very cordial at the briefing, but his first question was whether anyone at either agency had discussed his inquiry with anyone at the White House, the Department of Justice, or any other governmental organization and he was told we had not discussed this outside the agency.
- The CIA's IG had not conducted investigations into these allegations and had a limited role in the briefing. The Agency's OCA representative advised that we had not finished our records review, but we were aware of one of the individuals identified in

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JUL 2002

~~SECRET~~

10

~~SECRET~~

the Chairman's 11 July letter, Barry Seal (now deceased). We knew of Seal because of previous inquiries (in connection with criminal prosecutions of other individuals), but advised we had no relationship to Seal nor any records regarding his activities in Mena, Arkansas.

- We also advised him that both the SSCI and the House Judiciary Committee conducted in-depth reviews in 1991 and 1993, respectively, about another subject of his 11 July letter inquiry, [REDACTED] PROMIS software. The conclusion then and now, is that the Agency never purchased any [REDACTED] PROMIS software.

- [REDACTED]
- During the briefing, Chairman Leach read from a list of additional questions provided to us after the briefing. The briefers indicated that we could not answer all of these questions conclusively, and Chairman Leach asked for some limited follow-up searches. (Copy of additional questions attached as Tab C.)
- NSA's IG had no information about the questions posed in the 11 July letter, but did provide a brief broadbrush background on how NSA conducts its normal daily activities [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- We are continuing to search our records for responsive information and once the review of these materials is completed, we will brief the findings to our oversight committees, the NSC and Chairman Leach.

~~SECRET~~